

Cedar Grove During 1960

Before this New Year, so impatient to begin, is upon us — a look over the last twelve months may not be such a bad idea. A look at what made the news for 52 weeks and now is history in Cedar Grove. None of us will ever forget the cruel, blustery entrance of 1960 but some of us will recall it with a shudder. Telephone lines were down; drifts not seen for many years crowded the roads; power was off for hours and days; the Waltons will remember sick children and no heat. The Shoudy's were on night duty throwing logs into the fireplace. Douglas Lapp developed pneumonia and the nearest operating telephone was Jim Crichton's. The Armstrongs were refugees from their home for a week, visiting the Ritchie's.

While skating remained perfect at Cedarena, other things were fast becoming imperfect. The roads were terrible. Ice made the Woodland Park hill like a roller coaster zone berserk. We joined Whitevale in sadness at the loss of their old and well-loved Baptist Church by fire and Metropolitan Toronto published a "dream plan" for 1960 which included a little too much of our area to be less than a nightmare.

While the year was still young we had a false spring thaw. But February, not to be outdone by its predecessor, presented us with a monumental blizzard that left all but Jack Frost breathless. Lights were

left burning up and down the tenth as beacons to guide blind drivers home. The Whitakers abandoned their car and the road at Gordon Dimma's and took to their feet and the fields. Charlie Croucher was the last driver down the tenth before Dave Ritchie and Ken Shafen straddled that artery. It was a toss-up whether it was better to be on the road or home waiting for news. The only good thing about that event was the wonderful stories some of the old-timers told to show us what a paltry furry it really was.

By March we still had tons of snow, excellent skating and some stray Arctic birds to add interest to the white landscape. A tobogganing party was organized and well attended, and in mid month we had a spectacular eclipse of the moon right over Cedar Grove. The month ended on a squooshy note but skating continued until March 26th and about then Locust Hill advertised complete flying courses for \$385.

Our thoughts seriously turned toward spring in April and we planned a Spring Dance, complained about the springy roads and some of our horsey young fry became interested in the new local branch of the Pony Club.

May brought the closing, after 75 years, of Cedar Grove store and the loss has been suffered all year. Now, at the beginning of the new year, we have hopes and rumours to build on that our store will re-open under the ownership of Mr. and Mrs. Davis. And rain! We had so much rain in May that the red winged blackbirds thought the entire country was swamp. The CBC, on a hunt for culture, were seen photographing the St. Lawrence Market for television, Sim Reesor included.

In spite of the soggy month of May, the tractors were humming on the land very early in June 1960. Also this month we saw what the CBC was driving at and it was one of the best TV bits for a long time. A comparison in pictures of two markets, Stock and Produce, but we had to look hard to find Sim. The Petrie's and Maurice Hamill took a Sunday off to ride the last steam passenger train and a new baseball diamond was completed on the corner lot. The village was full of germs of all kinds and descriptions and those without coughs had lumps, and those without lumps had rashes. Gib and Evelyn Whitmore made a mark in local history with their Help Yourself Garden and the Reesors held their once-a-decade reunion in Markham Fair Grounds. The Petty reunion, held this year at the Milroys, drew over one hundred relatives to the annual get-together. Before the month closed, a herd of vandals broke into Woodland Park store and created their own particular brand of havoc.

Garden party and July are synonymous in Cedar Grove and this year we had lovely weather and an excellent show — these we expect as a matter of course, but 1960 could be labelled outstanding on both counts. An opportunist tried to take advantage of Ha Crichton and run off with some cash, but he tried it with the wrong gal. The police apprehended the young man before he had left the vicinity. Wally Reesor lost a finger in a balling operation, and, thanks to the century in

which we live, got it back again or not. We had a lovely White-Gift service at Zion Church and Mr. George Freeman had a glorious 90th birthday celebration. Some of us went to the poles this month but not very many of us. Now the year closes with the ground gently covered with snow and sleigh bells heard in the village almost every night.

Well, this is the general picture, but it is in the specific personal and group activities that the heart of our village throbs. We have had gains and losses in the year past and we know rejoicing and grief, some of us for the first time. We count more girls than boys in our new arrival list. Girls were welcomed by Frank and Alleen Robb, Eleanor and Murray Sewell, Cyrel and Florence Bielby, Anna and Bruce Armstrong, Jim and Jean Crichton, Ivan and Ann Beare; and boys by Evelyn and Gib Whitmore, Isobel and Bill Russel, Jack and Marg Walton and Garnet and Shirley Beare.

We were saddened by the deaths of Mrs. Arthur Clendenen, Mrs. Jake Burkholder, Wm. Jarvis, Vyla Murison and recently by Mrs. Palmer, postmistress at Markham.

Along with the Davis' there were other newcomers in the village: Mr. and Mrs. Ashmore Reesor, who moved into Elgin Reesor's house, and Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Jake Wideman, Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Coakwell, who moved into the Coakwell house in time to begin the year.

It was a year of wedding bells in Cedar Grove. Last year engagement buds bloomed in orange blossoms for Carolyn Little and Don Hoshel, Dorothy Armstrong and Bob McLaren, Darlene Dimma and John Blake, Dorothy Reesor and Don Middleton, Louise Ryan and Hugh Baird, Linda Offen and Bob Earley, and Marget Serfick and Frank Magy. We also heard of the marriage of Katherine Fish.

Mr. and Mrs. Jo Reesor celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary and the Charlie Whitakers and the Archie Littles hit the quarter century mark. The Art Gastons took time out to celebrate ten years in Cedar Grove.

Mrs. Robt. Milroy and George Freeman celebrated their 90th year and Mr. A. W. Milroy had an 83rd birthday with Gordon Dimma a year behind.

If the world won't come to Cedar Grove, Cedar Grove goes to the world and this year a good part of it was traversed by some of our perambulating villagers: The Sid Beares and the Grant Burkholders took to Florida early in the year, while Mrs. Arthur Lapp waited for the April rains to head in that direction. The Croucher's had a quick trip to New York and while the Fred Beare's and the Ivan Beare's went to Florida, Yvonne Housser visited California.

Later in the year Betty and Ernie Reesor and their son motored to Manitoba, and Lloyd Clendenen had a holiday in Alaska. Myrtle Hamill, Marion McCowan and Jean Miller covered most of Europe during the summer and Ivan Reesor and Jimmy Reesor flew to Edmonton and Calgary about Stampede time.

Most of the men on the tenth and along the town line managed to get in a few days fishing and, once the crops were in, there was a general exodus north as the farmers began a well earned holiday.

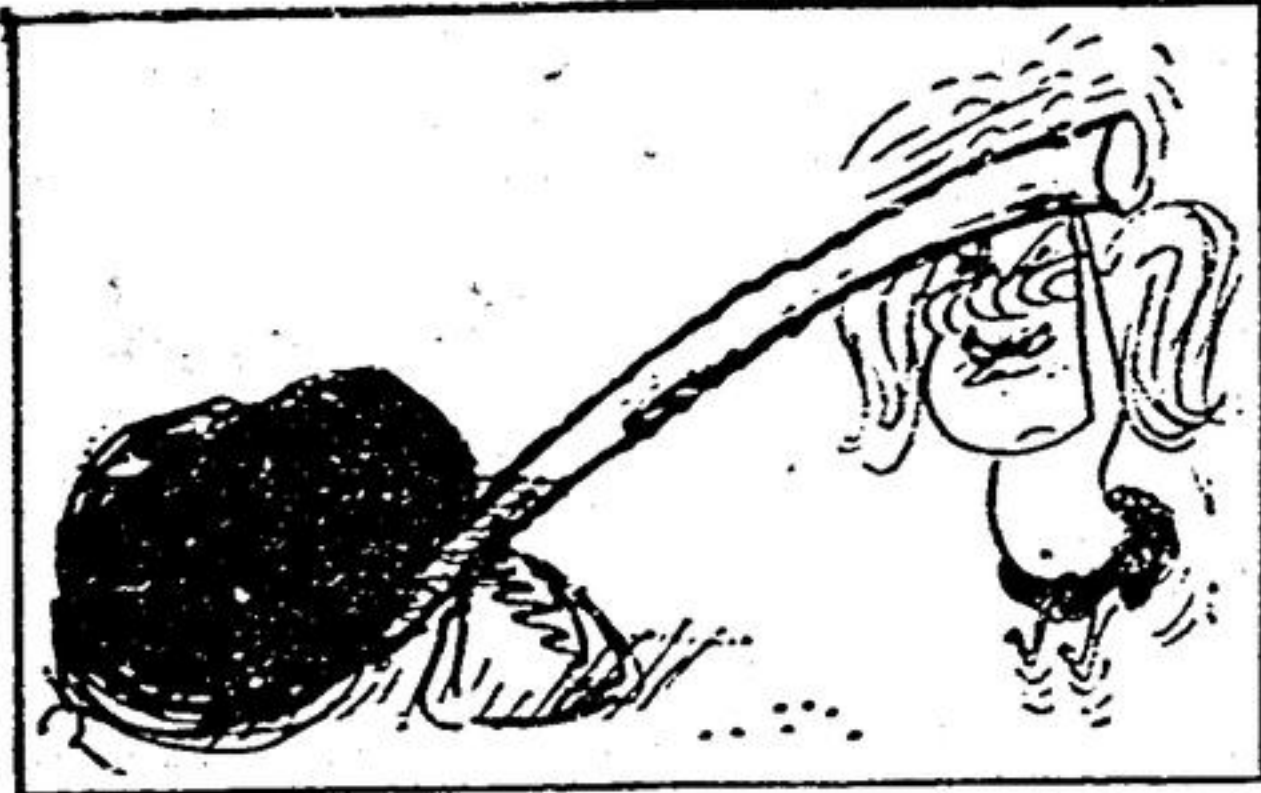
This was the year Ken Reesor was elected to the school board, Frank Sewell and his granddaughter, Cheryl Ann Walton, were both in hospital at the same time. Blodwen Davies was interviewed on Trans Canada matinee. Charlie Booth missed going to market for the first time and only the second miss in 42 years for the Booths. The Gaston twins brought hockey glory to the village. The Frank Reesors remodelled their whole house. Ruby and Mabel Reesor bought a bright red car. Olive MacIntosh bought herself a home in Markham. Marilyn Croucher and David Perry passed with honours in their University courses. Markham Arena came down. Lola Reesor distinguished herself in track and field at the Markham High School. O'Keefe Centre opened. Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Reesor were involved in a miserable car accident on No. 7 Highway. The Murisons took top prizes again at the Royal. The States got a new and young president and the Petrie's small addition snowballed to enormous proportions.

The WMS held their monthly meetings all through the year, packed bales, had some very good special speakers, enjoyed their annual picnic, became interested in the VOV and began a sewing group.

Euchres were held in the schoolhouse through rain, and shine, wind, sleet and snow. The winners took home some lovely prizes and returned the next week for more.

The Community Club put lights on the corner lot, planted more trees, seeded the lot, held a picnic and corn roast and dances any time they could get a hall, organized the 35th Annual Garden Party, kept Cedarens open for an almost record year and visited twelve homes in the

(Continued on Page 12)



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